



Frequently Asked Questions

Who should come with me when I have my surgery?

You should have a family member or adult friend come with you. This person will need to drive you home when you are discharged. You should have someone available to assist you at home until the morning after surgery. We ask that your family member or friend stay in the facility during your surgery. However, if they are unable to stay, they must leave a contact phone number and be readily available to return to the surgery center when called. If the patient is under 18 years old, a parent or legal guardian must stay in the facility until discharge.

What health information do I need to bring with me?

Please bring a list of all medications you take routinely, and periodically, including any over-the-counter medications, vitamins and supplements. Include the dosage, and strength of the medications. Bring a complete list of allergies. If you use any type of inhaler bring that with you on the day of surgery. The anesthesiologist may ask you to take a dose of this medication just prior to surgery to help your breathing.

What can I expect the morning of surgery?

- a) You should have nothing in your mouth after midnight the day of your surgery. This includes: food, liquids, gum, chewing tobacco or cigarettes. If your doctor or nurse has instructed you to take one or more medications on the morning of surgery please take these with only a small sip of water. Only take medications that you have been specifically instructed to take the morning of surgery.
- b) When you arrive, you will sign consent forms and change into a hospital gown. Your clothes will be put into a locker until you are discharged. A nurse will take your vital signs (i.e. blood pressure, temperature) and will start an intravenous line (I.V.) for fluids and medications administration. Your family member or friend may wait with you in the admitting area. The anesthesiologist will review your medical history and will answer any questions you may have regarding anesthesia. After you have spoken with the anesthesiologist you will be given some medications for relaxation/anxiety.
- c) When you are taken into the operating room you will be asked to move from the gurney onto the operating room table. The nurse will apply heart, oxygen and blood pressure monitors. If you receive general anesthesia, you will have medication administered through the I.V. line, and be asked to inhale oxygen.

- d) You will spend approximately 60-90 minutes in the recovery area following your surgery. We will give you something to eat/drink when you are sufficiently awake. Before you are discharged home, you will receive written and verbal instructions specific to your surgery. Be sure that you understand your instructions completely and that you are comfortable with any dressing care, catheter instructions etc. before you leave. Nursing staff will contact you the following business day to make sure you are doing well, and answer any questions you may have.

What about dentures, glasses, and hearing aids?

Please wear these to the surgery center, as you usually would, and you can remove them just prior to surgery. They will be held for you, and returned to you in the recovery room.

What about contact lenses?

If you wear contact lenses please leave them at home and wear your glasses.

Can I wear jewelry or makeup?

Please leave all valuable items at home: jewelry (except wedding rings), money, credit cards. You will be asked to remove any body piercings. No eye make-up, face make-up or hairspray should be applied that morning.

Can I or my family use our cell phones?

Please turn all cell phones OFF while in the patient care areas. Cell phones may be disturbing to other patients and it would be appreciated if they are used only in an emergency.

Can my family know how surgery went?

First, know that your privacy is protected and your confidentiality is important to the surgery center staff. If you do not wish to have certain information about your care told to anyone, please let us know ahead of time. After surgery your doctor will discuss the findings and results of your surgery with you and your family.

Who will be with me in the recovery area?

A family member/adult friend can come back to be with you while you are in the recovery area as soon as you are awake and stable. Please leave children at home. If you must bring a child, we ask that they stay in the waiting area with a responsible adult and do not come back to the patient care areas.